

# THE RUSSIAN CZAR AND HIS FAMILY

(IN THE MIDST OF SPLENDORS  
NICHOLAS AND HIS WIFE AND  
CHILDREN LIVE SIMPLY)



THE CZAR AND CZAREVITCH

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**F**EW Americans have had the opportunity to speak with the czar, except diplomats and Mr. Melville Stone, manager of the Associated Press, but many would like to know something about him aside from the political gossip and slander. Does he live in a golden cage, surrounded by elderly titled gentlemen of the court, inaccessible to the people? I have been asked. I will answer this by giving a few established facts. To tell the entire story of his life would be to tell the Russian history of the last twenty-one years.

Three weeks after his accession to the throne, November 14, 1894, he married Princess Alix of Hesse, sister of the Grand Duchess Elisaveta Feodorovna, wife of his uncle, Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich.

The czar rises at seven o'clock, and before nine he has finished his modest breakfast and begun his daily work. He reads the newspapers, telegrams and other information presented to him, and makes a note of all interesting matter. The time from ten to eleven o'clock is assigned to walking, but nearly always from ten to half past ten o'clock he receives the reports of the officials of his household or gives special audiences to dignitaries or men who interest him, and only during the time until eleven o'clock does he walk alone or with his son, accompanied by two Scotch hounds. At eleven o'clock he returns to the palace and tests the food of his infantry regiment or of his bodyguard. A sample of the soldiers' food in a locked steppan is brought to him by the chief noncommissioned officer of the regiment. After the test of the food the reports of the ministers begin, lasting until luncheon.

## A Day's Activities.

The luncheon is informal. There he meets his family for the first time in the day. Sometimes the officers of the suite on duty that day are invited. After luncheon the emperor receives officials and deputies, and from four to five o'clock he walks, drives, rides on a bicycle, or canoes and goes boating with his son or with his daughters and the empress. From six to eight o'clock he works again in his study. From eight to half past nine he dines with his family, and from that time to twelve or half past he works again. He never rests during the day, yet keeps cheerful and unwearied. Sometimes, when he finishes his task earlier than usual, he reads to the empress at her evening tea. Before going to bed he prays.

The czar works about ten or twelve hours a day, of which he spends no fewer than four hours alone; he sleeps not more than seven hours, and only about six hours are given to meals and relaxation with his family.

On the eve of holy days the czar goes to the evening church services at half past seven o'clock, and on holy days he goes to mass at eleven. The rest of the time on holy days he works as on week days.

Every evening, at home or abroad, the emperor writes his impressions in his diary.

Possessing an excellent memory and a clear method of thinking, the czar writes in a clear hand, quickly and without erasures. His thoughts are expressed simply and briefly; he does not like long phrases and foreign words. He always writes his orders, even to the nearest officers, on the black notes with pen and ink. The emperor does not like to speak by telephone, and there is none in his study. One is placed in the room of his servant. Sometimes he directs his aid-de-camp or his secretary to transmit his orders verbally or by telephone. The persons concerned are notified in advance, in the event that there should be any change in the time set for audiences or for receiving reports.

The tables and settees in the emperor's study are covered with state papers, but they do not lie there long; questions are decided and carried out at once. The emperor always knows where the required papers are. He puts the reports, after he has read them, in envelopes and seals. He reads easily all handwritings, even the most difficult italics of the seventeenth century.

The private charity of the emperor is extensive. He gives not only by hundreds but by thousands and ten thousands of rubles.

The difficult work of the government the czar does alone—he has no private secretaries. He has some help from the officials of his household and the officers of his suite. Officers of the field chancellery decipher and cipher telegrams and make drafts of letters, but he said once, quite truly: "I am doing three men's work. I wish everyone knew how to do the work at least

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of two." Sounds like a modern business man's complaint.

The children of the czar rise as early as their father, but spend their mornings in the upper apartments of the palace and generally meet him for the first time at luncheon. But the emperor sends them to bed, kisses them good night and blesses them with the sign of the cross. Before and after meals he and his family make the sign of the cross, and the children thank their parents after meals. Five o'clock tea is served also in private. During meals "service talk" is not allowed—then reign jokes and merry tales. After dinner the emperor likes to read aloud Russian classics, chiefly the work of the humorists. He is fond of Gogol and of the works of Gorbunov, a famous actor, writer of humorous stories, whose books the father of the emperor, Alexander III, also enjoyed. He is a student of Russian history and an admirer of the father of Peter the Great, the "most gentle" czar, Alexei Mikhailovich. His motto is: "A state is strong and powerful only when it worships the covenants of the past." He is president of the Russian Historical society, organized by Emperor Alexander III.

The children adore their father and obey him absolutely. He plays with them, gives them simple toys and comforts them during illness. His love for his son is boundless. He not only walks with him, but he takes him to military shows, builds sand and snow fortresses with him, digs ditches, cuts wood, breaks ice, does carpenter work, arranges boating parties. The emperor is a good sportsman. He is a great walker, rider and bicyclist, plays tennis and ninepins and is a good oarsman, swimmer, diver and shot.

At family dinners the czar prefers Russian cooking. He likes cold boiled sucking pig, beet soup, gruels and pancakes and drinks the Russian malt drink, "kvass," the old recipe for which was taken from the monastery of Sarov. The champagne served in the palace is always Russian.

The period of Lent is strictly observed. During the first, fourth and seventh weeks and on Wednesdays and Fridays of other weeks—Lent lasts seven weeks—even fish is excluded from imperial meals. Only vegetables are served.

During his holidays in Crimea or in the Finnish archipelago the czar enjoys walks of from ten to fifteen miles, visits farms with his children and picks mushrooms and berries. He is so tireless that only two officers of his suite, Komaroff and Drenteln, could accompany him in his mountaineering in Crimea.

The imperial family takes part in the joys and sorrows of their servants. The female servants leave the palace only in case of death or marriage. In the latter case they receive the right to visit their masters. As examples of the most devoted servants may be mentioned the servant of the empress, Kondratieff, the attendant of the heir apparent, the sailor Derevenko, and the nurse of the imperial children, Maria Vishniakova. For them and for the soldiers and officers of the regiments that bear their names the imperial family arrange a brilliant Christmas tree.

On Easter the czar kisses three times each of his servants, who congratulate him upon this great holy day, the empress giving her hand to be kissed. During the first three days of the Easter holidays the czar has to kiss more than 3,000 persons and present each one with a small Easter egg of gold, silver or Ural stones.

The czar's hunting is in charge of a special administrator of the imperial hunts, this office being part of the ministry of the court. The grounds are in Spain, Province of Petrokof, at Skernevitsy, near Warsaw, and in Bielovief, near Brest-Litovsk.

There are private hunts, when the emperor goes alone or with a few intimate friends, and great hunts, with a large number of hunters, patterned after an old elaborated ceremonial, with pricklers, beaters, hounds, hunting horns, torches and bonfires. He shoots deer, bears, hares, pheasants and, in Bielovief, bison.

The emperor is very cautious, strictly observing the rules, and never allows himself a shot which might hurt the beaters. He is an excellent shot and his bag is always filled. Once, near Vyborg, Finland, he killed a fox. The Finnish law rewards a hunter with five marks (\$1) as a premium for each carnivorous animal killed. The czar received the premium and issued a receipt for five marks. This receipt is kept in the Vyborg citadel.

The czar and his family like the opera, particularly Russian, but they also like Wagner. They prefer the ballet and comedies to other dramatic performances.

## Likes to Play Dominoes.

Only intimate friends are invited to the infrequent evening parties in the palace. The emperor never plays cards, but plays dominoes sometimes and likes billiards. The daughters of the czar like dancing, but now they have become helpful nurses in the hospitals and take care of wounded soldiers. The czar likes the balalaika orchestra, Cossack choirs and dances. Once after seeing a vivid and animated dance of the Cossacks the czar said, thanking the soldier dancers: "The blood runs quicker. It seems as though one could smash everything looking at them."

The czar has a strong belief in the heavenly origin of his power. When saying in his manifesto of June 3, 1907: "The Lord God has entrusted us with the czar's power over our people and before his throne we will give an answer for the fate of our empire," he expressed his conviction on the religious origin of the Russian monarchy. He has church services, old rites, old church hymns. When meeting priests he kisses their hands and they kiss his. He confesses his sins and receives sacrament twice during the Great Lent before Easter, and a third time before the anniversary of his accession to the throne.

The czar is a good soldier. In Crimea once he put on all the equipment of a soldier of the Sixteenth regiment of sharpshooters and took a long walk with rifle and knapsack for the purpose of trying out the soldiers' outfit. He ordered that he be enlisted in the rolls of the first squad of this regiment and received a certificate in the name of soldier Nicholas Romanoff. The life of the Russian army and navy and the well-being of the Russian soldiers and sailors are objects of his strenuous concern. He chose a simple sailor. Boatswain Derevenko, a peasant of the Volhynia province, to be the attendant of his son. The union of the czar with his soldiers and peasants is his purpose. To have a legal way of hearing the voice of the people the czar established the state дума, or house of representatives. In his speech from the throne May 10, 1904, at the opening of the first дума, he said to the representatives of his people, summoned to the St. George's Salle of the winter palace: "The solicitude for the well-being of the fatherland, intrusted to me by Providence, induced me to convene the elects of the people for help and legislative work. With ardent faith in the bright future of Russia I welcome in your persons the best men, whom I have ordered my beloved subjects to elect. Difficult and complicated work is before you. I believe that the love for your country and the fervent desire to serve it will rouse and unite you. As for myself, I will defend the unshakable institutions granted by me, in strong belief that you will give all your strength and self-denying service to your country in ascertaining the needs of the peasants, so close to my heart; in educating the people and developing their well-being, remembering that for the spiritual greatness and prosperity of the state not only freedom, but order based on right, is necessary. May my ardent desire to see my people happy and to transmit to my son in inheritance a state strong, well organized and civilized be fulfilled."

"May God bless the work before me in union with the state council and the state дума, and may this day be marked as a day of renovation of the moral countenance of the Russian land, as the day of the revival of her best forces."

"Begin with reverence the work which I have intrusted to you, and justify the confidence of the czar and the people."

"May God help you and me!"

In October the czar and the czarevitch visited the trenches on the southwestern front, and the czar was many times under the artillery fire of the enemy. As this bravery, by the tenure of article 7 of the statute of the military order of St. George, entitles an officer to a cross of St. George of the fourth class, the council of knights of St. George of the southwestern armies resolved to ask the emperor to accept this cross. The commander in chief of the southwestern armies also asked permission to confer upon the czarevitch a silver medal, with a St. George's ribbon, for bravery in having visited the wounded at the station Clevan, in the sphere of the enemy's artillery fire.

## A LINE OF PRINT

By GEORGE COBB.

"Sorry, Miss Fortner, but those are the orders," spoke the society editor and he looked it, for the neat, intelligent young lady before him had impressed him favorably from the start.

For two days Susie Fortner, would-be journalist, had been trying her wings. She had flown high in her first copy covering the big wedding event of the season, and now she had dropped back to earth with a deadening shock to all her high ambitions.

"Don't be discouraged," resumed the kindly editor. "You've got it in you, but you lack the practical experience. You see, the mistake was a terrible one. I don't know but it may lead to a libel suit. Then again, it antagonized some high up people and that means loss of advertising patronage."

"It must have been some cruel joker who gave me the incorrect information," sobbed Susie, in tears of chagrin and vexation. "I don't want you people to get into trouble. Hadn't I better go and see this Mr. Randall and Miss Armour and explain how it all came about?"

"I wouldn't waste my time on that if I were you," advised the editor, but Susie went her way feeling a responsibility she must carry out.

A line of print had done it, a simple innocent looking series of only a few

ary in an art store where pay was poor and progress slow. "All the same, I won't give up my ideal—I can keep on with my book of poems, anyway."

She sat down in the parlor of the boarding house to think over affairs. She was deep among her mental abstractions, when a cheery call caused her to start up to face Ward Ridley. He was a fellow boarder, a struggling young newspaper artist.

"I finished two drawings illustrating your first poems," he announced, "and I am going to bring them from the office this evening. How is society, Miss Fortner?"

"I am through with society as a reporter," replied Susie and she told her desolate story. She had a truly sympathizing auditor and when Ridley had gone Susie felt that she had at least one good friend in the world.

Then came further distress for the devoted Susie. She returned to her old position, but only for a week. For a month poor Susie was down with a contagious fever.

She was wan and debilitated when the consuming fever left her. Her pale cheek flushed as gradually her nurse told her all about the three weeks blank in her life.

"Your friend, Mr. Ridley, provided for everything," the attendant explained. "He has been working day and night and looks as though he would be the next one on the sick list."

But if Ward Ridley was worn out, his face showed a rare delight to find Susie sitting up and on the road to recovery.

"When you are strong enough," he said mysteriously more than once, "I want to disclose a surprise."

Then one morning, when Susie was able to walk about the room, Ridley quietly drew a small volume from his pocket. He handed it to her. Susie sat transfixed.

"My poems and published!" she fluttered and her life's vision seemed realized.

"Yes," replied Ridley. "You remember the two people you wrote up wrong in that wedding report? Well, your innocent revelations to them brought about an engagement and they are soon to be married. Miss Armour came here the day you were taken down with fever. She has been here since. She will be here again. And so happy was she in her new found love, all due to you, that she insisted on furnishing the money to print the book and I—well, I have aided in spilling it with my illustrations."

Susie cried. She could not help it. And then she smiled and a great gladness surged up in her heart at the words from Ridley.

"Tell you, Miss Fortner, they have increased my salary down at the office and I was wondering if you would help me save some of it—as my wife." (Copyright, 1916, by W. G. Chapman.)



"I Am Through With Society as a Reporter."

words: "It is current rumor that Miss Grace Armour and Mr. Dalby Randall, bridesmaid and best man, will shortly follow the example of the happy bride and groom of the present occasion."

The item had come to Susie while she was collating material for the full column report on the brilliant affair. Lists of names had been given her, as of the presents and items as to the honeymoon trip and the like. How was she to know that the bridesmaid and best man were almost perfect strangers one to the other? A cruel hoax and it had cost Susie her position.

She got a directory and found the address of this Mr. Randall. There was gloom in her heart, but she grappled with the duty of the moment in her usual determined, businesslike way. Susie thought out all she would say as she was shown into the office of Mr. Randall. He was a bright, handsome young fellow. She had noticed that at the wedding. He stared a little and looked perplexed and embarrassed as Susie told her story.

"It is most kind of you to take the trouble to explain the mixup," said Randall. "Of course some thoughtless mischief maker fancied it would be a rare hoax to give in that false information. By the way, a thought—this affair has bothered me a good deal. I know Miss Armour must be troubled and chagrined over the affair. By the way," and Randall brightened up under the influence of a quick suggestion—"you couldn't clear my skirts and make Miss Armour feel right to me, that is if she feels wrong about it by calling on her and telling her what you have told me, could you?"

Why, of course Susie would do that, and the young man pondered. To the observant Susie he acted little worried over what had been done and evinced a sort of delight in being able to discuss the situation with Miss Armour.

"I believe," he said finally. "I believe I will accompany you to Miss Armour and will—er—introduce you."

So they went together and Susie went over her story again to the blushing young bridesmaid. Randall had learned of the penalty she had been called upon to pay for the insertion of that fatal line. He even asked her address.

"I have some friends in the newspaper line," he told her. "It seems pretty hard that you should lose your position for a complication in no sense your making."

Miss Armour was kind, indulgent, almost sisterly to Susie. She took her address.

"I wonder if I have suggested an idea to those two," soliloquized Susie with a whimsical smile as she wended her way homewards. Then her own troubles brought a cloud of gravity to her fair face.

"I shall have to go back to the old humdrum rut, I suppose," she reflected, which covered a saleswoman's sal-

## KEEPING THE CHILD STRAIGHT

Wise Advice on the Subject Is That Given by Writer in a Chicago Newspaper.

When children are prevented from having a good time at home they will go where their high spirits will have a chance.

It is up to you to make your home a place where the children will have their best time.

If you do, you will find less desire on their part to leave it.

It may cost a little money; the noise may be annoying to you, but isn't a little money and a little noise a small price to pay to keep the kiddies home?

When children are much on the streets or in questionable company is it any wonder that they acquire bad habits?

To keep your children sweet, pure and honorable should be your constant aim.

Before you become a parent you should consider that you will have to make many changes in your mode of living; that you will have many vexations. But the children will more than make up to you for all you must deny yourself.

Nothing is so sweet as the heart of a little child unless it is the hearts of two little children.—Chicago Examiner.

## Fight Patron Was Weary.

Billy Gibson, who conducted a small boxing club, told of a bout between Montana Dan Sullivan, a middleweight, and a rough, rugged fellow who was noted for his punching powers, but who was rather slow about. Montana Dan apparently held his opponent in great respect. He would approach the rough lad cautiously, make a light lead at him, and then skitter away to a far corner of the ring. This went on for a short time, with the crowd watching silently, until finally Dan reached out a quick left and jabbed the rough one lightly on the chin. "That's right, Dan," came a thin, piping and very weary voice from the cheapest seats. "That's right! Antagonize him, Dan; antagonize him!"

## One's Finger Nails.

No two finger nails on a person's hands grow at the same rate. The nail on the middle finger grows faster than any other, while the thumbnail is the slowest growing nail. As a rule, too, the nails on the right hand grow faster than those on the left. The state of one's health, too, affects the rate of growth. The nails on invalids' hands grow considerably faster than on the hands of a healthy person. Taken on the average, the rate of growth is an eighth of an inch a month, or from an inch to an inch and a half a year.